

Message Text

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60

ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 EB-07 TRSE-00

STR-04 SIL-01 LAB-04 FEA-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 TAR-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

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DRAFTED BY COMMERCE:BMARSH:JM

APPROVED BY EB/OT:CWSCHMIDT

AGRICULTURE:RHARPER (SUBS)

TREASURY:EGREEN (SUBS)

STR:SLANDE

LABOR:JCOYLE (INFO)

NEA/IAI:WCLUVERIUS (SUBS)

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R 041747Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 237234

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, MTN, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL AND GSP: NOTE ON MTN

REF: TEL AVIV 4486

1. DURING THE COURSE OF THE CONSULTATIONS, GOI INDICATED
GREAT FEAR THAT BY ACCEDING TO U.S. REQUEST ISRAEL WOULD
LOSE BARGAINING CHIPS IN THE MTN. WE POINTED OUT AT THAT
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TIME THAT 1) THE MTN TARIFF GROUP HAS ALREADY REACHED

AGREEMENT ON THE BASE RATE FOR GATT-BOUND TARIFF ITEMS, I.E., THE TARIFF CUTTING FORMULA WOULD APPLY TO THE BOUND DUTY LEVELS RATHER THAN CURRENTLY APPLIED RATES; 2) IT IS NOW LIKELY THAT THE BASE DATE FOR CALCULATING CUTS ON UNBOUND TARIFF RATES WOULD BE DATED EARLIER THAN JANUARY 1, 1976. THESE FACTS GENERALLY ASSURED THE GOI THAT THEIR UNILATERAL MFN REDUCTIONS WOULD NOT BE PARTICULARLY COSTLY IN THE MTN CONTEXT. HOWEVER, GOI REQUESTED WRITTEN ASSURANCES ON THIS MATTER IF CONSULTATIONS WERE TO YIELD MEANINGFUL RESULTS.

2. THE ISRAELI NOTE WHICH EMBODIES AN UNDERSTANDING ON THE EFFECT OF UNILATERAL REDUCTIONS ON THE GOI MTN BARGAINING POSITION (REFTEL) DOES NOT COMPROMISE OUR BASIC

POSITION. GOI IS AWARE THAT UNDERSTANDING DOES NOT RPT NOT MEAN THAT USG HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO GIVE MTN CREDIT FOR ANY OR ALL OF THE UNILATERAL REDUCTIONS IN GATT, EVEN IF BOUND, NOR THAT THE USG WILL GIVE THE GOI NEGOTIATING CREDIT FOR THESE REDUCTIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF POSSIBLE ARTICLE XXIV NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE EC-ISRAEL AGREEMENT. KISSINGER

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